

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 18

DECEMBER 1969

NUMBER 2

Christmas In Your Home

Although most of us give "lip service" to Christ at Christmas, do we spend as much time and energy in making Christmas a Christian celebration as we do in emphasizing the pagan trimmings? The following are a few "last-minute" suggestions for Christian families:

1. Assemble a few families and go caroling, particularly to shut-ins or lonely people. Take along to give to each person a candle in a candle holder, to which is attached a Christmas greeting card, preferably hand-made. Or take along a simple creche scene.
2. Learn a Christmas hymn which you have never known before — one that sings not simply of Jesus as an infant, but of His earthly ministry. Examples: "Christian, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn," "O How Shall I Receive Thee?", "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning," "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem."
3. Watch for TV and radio program listings which emphasize the Christian meaning of Christmas. Set aside time in your schedule to watch these as a family. If preparation time is needed before the showing, or discussion time afterwards, be sure to include time for these also.
4. Prepare some Christmas greeting for your door or yard or window which will tell passers-by that Christmas honors *Christ* rather than Santa Claus or Rudolph.
5. Spend some time, as a family, quietly on Christmas Eve or Christmas night reading: Luke 2:1-20 and/or Matthew 2:1-11.
6. Make deliberate plans for "extending Christmas" — the spirit of God's love through Christ: During Christmas holidays a student from overseas might be invited to your home. Establish, and begin a plan, for the family to share with others in need (a box for coins to be given to Family Thank Offering, UNICEF, for example).

(Continued on Page 6)

From Our House To Your House

A Joyful Christmas, A Blessed Year

and

Peace To All

from

THE STAFF OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Guy L. Colbert — Jesse H. Dollar — Mrs. Wilmer McCord
Miss Emilie Pitcock — W. J. and Carey Andes



Randy Meyers, Central Church, Atlanta, observing Thanksgiving display and seeing outstretched hands of those in need.

Churchmanship Institutes

JANUARY 11, 1970: 2:30-4:30 P. M.
—St. John's Church, Cullman, Ala., for all churches in N. Ala. area.

JANUARY 18, 1970, 2:30-4:30—Brookmeade Church, Nashville, Tenn., for churches in the Nashville area.

JANUARY 25, 1970, 3:00-5:00—Sweetwater Church, Sweetwater, Tenn., for churches in Chattanooga-Knoxville area.

Church officials, pastors, church school officers, and all church leaders should attend these Institutes. Not only will church leaders learn more of their responsibilities, but churches can discover something of their Christian World Mission, as Randy Meyers of Central Church, Atlanta, discovered the outstretched hands of those in need around the world while observing the plenty most of us have.

Ordinations Granted

JOHN E. RHODES was ordained to the Christian Ministry December 14, 1969, by the East Alabama Association at Phenix City, Alabama, in the First Congregational Christian Church where Mr. Rhodes has served as pastor for more than three years.

CLIFF B. SMITH will be ordained to the Christian ministry January 4, 1970, by the Central Alabama Association at Mt. Olive Congregational Christian Church, Tallassee, Ala., Mr. Smith is pastor of the Mt. Olive Church and of the East Tallassee Church.

JAMES E. COWLISHAW, JR. will be ordained to the Christian ministry January 11, 1970, by the Ala-Tenn. Association at United Church of Christ, Belvidere, Tenn., where he has been serving as pastor since July, 1969.

Dr. Orrin L. Keener Is Ordained In Evarts, Ky.

On Friday, November 14, 1969, at 7:30 p. m., in the First Congregational Church in Evarts, Kentucky, Dr. Orrin L. Keener, of Berea, Kentucky, was ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ. Dr. Keener has been serving as pastor of the Evarts church for the past several months.

During the Laying On of Hands, Dr. Keener invited his wife and the Evarts Congregation to join him at the altar, join hands and kneel. Although the hands of the ordained ministers were laid only upon the head of Dr. Keener, in a sense the entire congregation joined their pastor in a dedication of life and a commitment to the mission to which God in Christ is calling that church.

Deer Lodge Church Pays Off Mortgage

The Deer Lodge Church in Tennessee recently sent a check for \$595.36 to the Department of Church Development and Building in New York as the final payment on the grant mortgage given the church. In 1940, the church began to remodel its existing building. In 1966, the church installed a basement under the educational wing. Although the basement is not finished, the church felt that other churches could use the money granted them and so they paid in full this mortgage. Miss Annie Campbell is the pastor.

Churches Report

THE NEW EFFORT CHURCH AT BONIFAY, Florida, celebrated the anniversary of its 78 years October 12, 1969. Starting with Sunday School, a fine message by Rev. Otto Culpepper, a dinner at the noon hour, the service concluded with an afternoon sing and several members talking about the history of the church. First pastor was Rev. P. G. Woodruff.

—Doris Hathaway, Reporter

* * * *

PHENIX CITY FIRST CHURCH makes regular visits to Cobb Nursing Home, as part of the Women's Fellowship activities. They also plan to serve supper to the East Alabama laymen, and a Christmas party at Ramada Inn.

* * * *

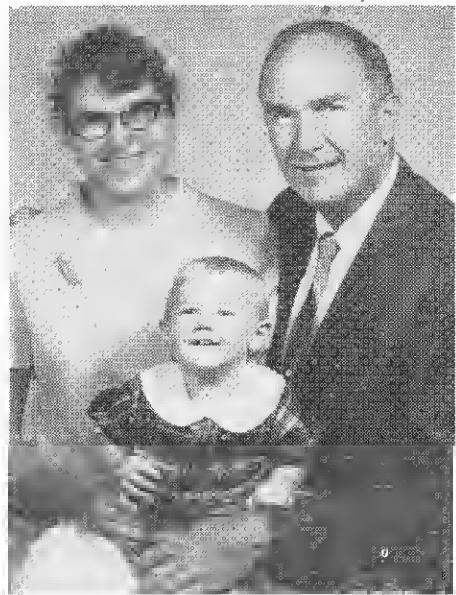
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF NASHVILLE, Tenn., Rev. John J. Roemer, pastor, dedicated their new Christian Education building and facilities on Sunday, December 7, 1969. Guest ministers for the service were: Rev. Kenneth F. Worthman and Rev. Eugene F. Bickel. A fellowship dinner followed the morning service of dedication. The new facilities include a pastor's study and church office, as well as church school rooms.

The pastor and family sponsored a "fellowship of the lonely" Thanksgiving Dinner in the fellowship hall of the church on Thanksgiving Day. A service of Holy Communion and a cantata, "Jesus Is Born," will be presented on Sunday, December 21, in the morning service. That evening, the Church School Christmas program will be given.

* * * *

THE EAST TALLASSEE CHURCH held a Thanksgiving service on Sunday night, November 23. Each person brought an item for the worship center. Some of the offerings were: pyracantha berry branches, a large sweet potato, a squash, turnips, radishes, tomatoes, apples, oranges, branches of colored leaves, pumpkin, cattails, pecans, acorns and ears of corn. Mrs. Ethel Griggs, member of the church and florist, received the items and quickly placed them in an artistic arrangement.

The United Christian Youth, under direction of Mrs. Betty Smith, presented a Thanksgiving pantomime depicting the first Thanksgiving and a modern Thanksgiving celebration. Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Logan, garbed in colonial attire, complete with stove pipe hat and long dress, sat at each end of the table for the first Thanksgiving. Young people, painted as Indians and dressed in costumes, sat around the



Rev. James C. Jackson and family began their ministry at First Church, Andalusia, Alabama, November 1, 1969.

table with them. Mrs. Christine Ledbetter and DeWitt Cullars were the hostess and host at the modern day table. Pastor, Rev. C. B. Smith, gave a talk and flannel board demonstration on "Prayer."

The Church has begun a Bible Study group with adults, meeting each Sunday at 6:00 while the Youth are holding their meetings. Presently, they are studying Kings.

—Mrs. Floyd Ballard, Reporter

* * * *

CULLMAN CHURCH, holding a revival the week of November 30, had the following guest ministers: Roger Whitley, pastor of Garden City Church; Marvin Waugh, pastor of Jones Chapel and Old Liberty Churches; Robert L. Shelton, retired; and Bobby Aderholt, pastor of Fairview Church.

A B C's Of Making A Pledge

- A. Analyze your present giving in relation to your income and spending habits.
- B. Bear in mind that it will cost your church four dollars to accomplish what three dollars did a few years ago.
- C. Consider general synod's recommendation that each member give five percent of his income for the work of the church.
- D. Decide on the best pledge you can make, and then let your church know what to expect from you.

Stewardship Council

Todd Church, Shawmut, Accepts Unique Challenge

The latter part of October, the congregation of Todd Congregational Christian Church was challenged by Bill Hodnett, pastor, to spend no more than \$5.00 on their groceries for one week. The remaining amount of grocery allowance was to be given to the Church. This commitment was made on Sunday evening, October 26, 1969, with eight couples making this commitment.

On Sunday, November 2nd, the results of this commitment were made known. The amount was \$203.50 (with eleven families taking part). This money will be sent to help the people who are starving Biafra.

On Sunday evening, November 9th, these couples gave their personal testimonies as to what this self-denial meant to them. Without exception, these people were truly blessed.

—Mrs. Charlotte Muldrew, Church Clerk

Pastor To Have New Book Published

A new book by the Rev. Dr. S. Lawrence Johnson, pastor of our Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, will be published as of January 1, 1970, by Abingdon Press. It is expected by the publisher that "THE PIG'S BROTHER AND OTHER CHILDREN'S SERMONS" will be of value to ministers, directors of Christian Education, church school teachers and parents who enjoy moments of family devotion with their children. Larry Johnson has long been a strong advocate of the Children's sermon and found it very valuable in his work. A large number of children attended the morning service of worship at Pilgrim Church, compared with the total size of the membership, and it is felt that the children's sermon is largely re-



Bonanza Community Church Celebrates Anniversary

On Sunday morning, November 2, 1969, the Bonanza United Church of Christ (a Community Church) celebrated its third anniversary. The church held its first meeting in the Sales Office in Bonanza on the first Sunday in November of 1966. Since that time the Church has moved into a House-Chapel on Thrasher Court. The service was composed of a dialogue between the pastor, the Rev. L. Floyd Carmack, and John Sandefer. Mr. Carmack answered questions about how the United Church of Christ came into being in Bonanza; how he became its minister, and what kind of future could the Bonanza United Church of Christ have in Bonanza.

After the Service the congregation met in the fellowship room for refreshments.

sponsible for this.

This book may be had through your favorite book seller immediately after the turn of the year.

Dr. Johnson's first book was on Pastoral Counselling," a far cry from Children's Sermons.

Two Worthy Projects Suggested

During the Christmas season, many churches wish to channel special gifts to church institutions. The Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N. C., provides excellent care for 80 children. Dr. W. W. Snyder, the Executive Director, is well versed in the best and latest approaches in child care. Worthy support needs to be given to Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, Tenn. With Rev. Wayne A. Peck as administrator, the Nursing Home facilities and the retirement facilities are being expanded. Many in the nursing home are not able to pay for their complete care, and thus the Church through this institution can provide care for those unable to pay.

HERE AND THERE

In November, MR. HUBERT RITCHER, a former Moderator of Southeast Conference, was honored by his church, St. John's Church in Cullman, Ala., as the "Member of the Month." The Cullman Church recently had a \$20 Sunday, in which every church family was asked to bring \$20. Holy Communion will be served at the Cullman Church on Christmas Day at 6 A. M.

THE MOUNTAIN GROVE CHURCH, Hanceville, Ala., had a \$5.00 Sunday.

Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Bushong, retired and now living in the Uplands Retirement Village at Pleasant Hill, Tenn., began an Interim Ministry on November 1, 1969, at Hollywood Church in Florida.

REV. ALLEN HOLLIS, JR., pastor of Langdale, Alabama, Congregational Christian Church, raises the question, "Are Christians in the majority in the Valley?" The Valley Ministerial Association intends to focus the glare of publicity on the pornography problem in the Valley and the "response to this campaign will tell us a little something about who is in the majority there."

CIRCULAR CHURCH, CHARLESTON, S. C., held a three-day Church School Workshop in August, with the result that there are now two teachers in each class, giving a broader approach and more continuity to Christian Education. The Women of the church held a shower for the Kindergarten and Three-year-old class, and this provided the room and furniture. The pastor, Robert Boston, is now the teacher for a new class for youth. The adults are experimenting with and interpreting issues facing Church and Society . . . The Child Development Center for underprivileged children began November 10, hours 9-12, Monday through Friday. Maximum enrollment will be 16-20 children. Purpose of the Center will be to prepare the children mentally and emotionally for public education. Enrollment is limited to five year olds who will be starting to school next fall. No fee is charged and staff is all voluntary. This is a service of Circular Church to the community. Mrs. Lenora Bender is Director, with assistance: Mrs. Sharon Tool, Mrs. Cynthia Young, Mrs. Frances Wardlaw, Mrs. Rose Boston, Mrs. Laura Higdon, and Mrs. Mildred Raines.

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Andy Young Presents Challenge To Georgia Council Of Churches

Highlight of the General Assembly of the Georgia Council of Churches came when the Rev. Andrew Young, Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, declared that, "God is at work in the streets and in the world." He stated that, "the day of aggressive leadership from Washington is gone and society's leadership must come from persons who are in dialogue with God — individuals with prophetic vision." In the 70's he declared we must free ourselves from the culture we established for ourselves in the 60's. The challenge of the 70's is what we are going to do about world poverty. We need to bring freedom to the captives in the church, as well as in our culture. Mr. Young is a minister in the United Church of Christ and a member of First Congregational Church, Atlanta.

Those assembled in the Council meeting adopted a resolution commending the Supreme Court of the U. S. for its recent decision ordering public school to be desegregated immediately. Council also deplored establishment of private schools by persons bent upon continuing segregation.

Citations for meritorious service in the ecumenical movement were given to: Dr. R. B. Shorts, one of the founders of the Georgia Council of Churches and now District Superintendent of the C.M.E. Church; Dr. David B. Walthall, serving on many committees of the Council and now Regional Director, Board of Christian Education, Presbyterian Church, S. C.; Mrs. Edward A. Driscoll, wife of the Director of the Council, present at the founding of the Council, longstanding member of the Division of Christian Education of

Ministry To Street People Is Begun In Atlanta

Begun by representatives of the Atlanta Churches of the United Church of Christ and of the United Presbyterian Church, and now strengthened by the Disciples of Christ, the Ministry to the Street People in Atlanta is under the leadership of the Rev. Harcourt Klinefelter, a minister of the Georgia-South Carolina Association of the Southeast Conference and a member of Rush Memorial Church in Atlanta. His church is the street and his parishioners are the street people. Said Mr. Klinefelter recently, "The community is attempting to take literally the Book of Acts, where people pooled all their belongings, and gave to the people on the basis of need. Most hippie religious action is an attempt to live out early Christianity."

One of the surveys on the "hippie community" revealed that many young people came from small towns and rural areas of the South. Some are from cities, but wherever they come from, they are in need. Some rebel against parents and home life, some against culture and educational rigidities and others seek a more liveable way of life.

The Klienfelters open their home to those in need. On any given night, eight people may show up for dinner and several more come later to sleep on their living room floor. There they are, the Klienfelters, ministering to Street People, in Christ's name.

LaGRANGE UNITED CHURCH had a Homecoming Service November 9, 1969. Dr. David Naglee and family rendered both instrumental and vocal music at the service. Dr. Naglee teaches at LaGrange College and has served as Interim Minister at several of our churches. Pastor, Joe A. French, installed new church officers November 2, and dedicated a new piano for the church sanctuary November 16.

the Council and leader in Weekday Church Kindergarten Leadership School and official of the Southern Committee on Education of Children for many years, member of United Church of Christ; Dr. Harry V. Richardson, one of the organizers of the Council, then President, a leader among those founding the International Theological Center in Atlanta, President of the Center for ten years, now President Emeritus.

New Address For UCC Audio-Visual Rentals

In a recent letter from Rev. William E. Wimer, Director of the Office for Audio Visuals, we have been notified that all audio-visual rentals formerly handled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will not be honored at a new location.

Beginning November 15, motion pictures or other audio-visuals ordered from the black catalog of the Office for Audio Visuals or one of its supplements can be procured from the following address:

U.C.C. Mass Media Ministries
2116 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Telephone: Area 301:727-3270

The St. Louis address remains the same: 1720 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. Telephone: Area 314: 421-1544.

Mr. Wimer points out that moving the eastern office to Baltimore is "an effort to be of greater service to our constituency," by having "a greater number of prints at our disposal than would be possible on our limited budget. This will greatly increase our ability to book what you want when you want it." A new catalog, reflecting the enlarged library and the new location will be off the press early in 1970.

This denominational change in no way affects the Southeast Conference Audio-Visual Library. Motion pictures, filmstrips and records in the SEC Catalog may still be ordered by writing or telephoning the Southeast Conference, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Georgia 30329. Telephone —Area Code 404:633-5655.

Adolescence For Adults

For adults who seriously want to learn what they can do about helping to lessen the "generation gap," help is on the way! The Massachusetts Blue Cross has recently published an attractive and thoroughly readable 96-page book entitled ADOLESCENCE FOR ADULTS.

Through a series of brief, but informative, articles, the reader catches glimpses into the world of youth through writings of qualified persons in the fields of sociology, psychiatry, government, and business. Some articles are by youth themselves.

ADOLESCENCE FOR ADULTS is for all sorts of adults — parents, teachers, youth advisors, and just friends of youth. You may receive a free copy by writing the state office of Blue Cross - Blue Shield.



National Basic Support Income 1969

as of
October 31, 1969
\$5,751.171

On the 31st of October, receipts for the National part of Our Christian World Mission totaled \$5,751.171. This is a decrease of \$1,681.00 or 23% from receipts for the same date a year ago.

Basic support receipts for Our Christian World Mission in 1969 were \$39,235.00 less on October 31 than for the same date a year ago.

Income for the national program (see picture) was down \$176,691.00 or 3%. Income for conference work was up \$137,456 or 2.8%.

If this trend continues for the balance of 1969, the total for the national part of Our Christian World Mission will be about \$300,000.00 less than in 1968, necessitating serious cutbacks of work in the months ahead.

All members and churches are urged to make special efforts during the remaining weeks of the year so that income for Our Christian World Mission in 1969 will exceed the 1968 total, enabling the United Church of Christ to continue many important ministries than curtail them.

Last Two Months Of 1969 Critical For OCWM In Southeast Conference

The O. C. W. M. receipts THROUGH October 31, 1969 totaled \$34,283.00. Our hoped-for budget for 1969 calls for \$53,000.00 in Our Christian World Mission receipts, which means that November and December receipts must total \$18,717.00 if we are to meet our budget in O. C. W. M. giving.

The Conference is desperately in need of further support — and it is woefully lacking in its support of World Missions. Keep the O. C. W. M. funds coming.

Pastor Writes Of OCWM

Bill Hodnett, pastor of the Todd Church at Shawmut, Alabama, recently wrote a heartwarming letter. "On behalf of the Todd Church," he said, "I would like to share with the churches of the Southeast Conference what 'Our Christian World Mission' has done for us. Several years ago, the Southeast Conference sent to the Todd Church \$50 per month to help with the expenses of the church when the church was in need. In the last two years, we have spent approximately \$35,000 on our building and fixtures. Now, the church is on financially sound ground. I truly feel that, had it not been for the Conference's help in time of need, we would not have been able to accomplish what has been done. I hope that if any church is not now doing so, they will see fit to give to O.C.W.M., so that others may be benefitted now and in the future."

In addition to its O.C.W.M. giving, the Todd Church gave \$101 to the Southeast Conference to help alleviate the financial distress of the Conference.

1970 Youth Tour Offered

In response to the question, "Why don't we do a high school youth tour?", the answer comes from the Stewardship Council, "We have one projected for July 1-17, 1970. This youth tour will include: Japan Expo '70, Hong Kong, and Hawaii.

Although the tour plans were developed too late to be included in the 1970 tour folder, it is a United Church Tour. Cost of the 17 days is \$1140.

Rev. Robert A. Kinsey, minister of First United Church of Christ, Arvada, Colorado, will lead the tour. Having led successful youth tours to Expo '68 in Montreal, Mr. Kinsey will have an adequate number of counselors to help with leadership. Enrollment is limited to thirty high school youth.

The 1970 Youth Tour will be housed in good hotels or interesting hotels such as Asia Center of Japan, Tokyo, and Yodagawa Neighborhood Center, Osaka.

Prompt applications are advised. For further information, write Rev. Nelson C. Dreier, Secretary for Tours, Stewardship Council, United Church of Christ, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Remember — funds to be credited in the 1970 Year Book must be received in the Conference office PRIOR TO JANUARY 10, 1970.

Mail to: Southeast Conference, Post Office Box 29883, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

The Christmas Fund
FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS
THE PENSION BOARDS • UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
267 Park Avenue South • New York, N.Y. 10010

Social Action Faces The Drug Scene

One of the conspicuous manifestations of contemporary culture is the use of drugs — hallucinogenic, psychedelic, and psychomimetic — particularly among young people. Pastors, campus ministers, youth counsellors and parents are increasingly confronted with this phenomenon and perplexed as to its meaning. Denominational and interdenominational leaders in youth work, Christian education, lay life, pastoral counselling and social action are giving the problem serious attention.

SOCIAL ACTION was challenged to raise — if not to answer — some of the questions prompted by this trend. What does it say to us? What lies behind it, besides the desire for some new excitement? Why this route? What are they seeking?

So the October issue of SOCIAL ACTION deals with "Drugs and the Search for Meaning." Gaylord B. Noyce, associate professor of practical theology at the Yale Divinity School, offers "some pastoral reflections by a non-user" under the title: "What Shall We Make of the Drug Scene?" Robert Hundley, a 1969 Union Seminary graduate, who has been in touch with the drug culture, discusses "Acid Refugees in Search of the Politics of Mysticism." A revised edition of Dr. Joel Fort's Comparison Chart showing the nature and effects of the major substances used for mind alteration, a bibliography (by Ralph Weltge), and notes on available audio-visuals complete the major articles.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

William J. Andes

1969 Christmas Fund For All The Saints

The theme of the 1969 Christmas Fund Appeal is "For All the Saints." These are the Veterans of the Cross, men and women who in pulpit and parsonage, through word and example, served and witnessed faithfully and now "from their labors rest."

Most of these, our special saints, would protest being called "saints". But the term is an old one, still appropriate today.

Christmas checks, sent last year to 875 ministers and widows in need, do two things:

First, they meet some practical needs in limited budgets — for essentials, for emergencies, and for extras otherwise unobtainable. Second, the Christmas checks carry a special message for all the saints. They convey good will, gratitude, and that priceless ingredient — "You are remembered."

The balance remaining after the Christmas checks are sent becomes the year-round Emergency Fund to help ministers and their families who could not "go it alone."

The poster subject representing the Veterans of the Cross is the Rev. I. George Nace. Though he is not a Christmas Fund recipient, he is a representative of those your gift will help.

All Christmas Fund activity and all emergency relief matters are handled from the offices of The Pension Boards in New York. Checks made payable to the Christmas Fund should be sent directly to The Pension Boards — United Church of Christ, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10010.

Christmas In Your Home

(Continued from Page 1)

Read together each day about the missionaries mentioned in the Calendar of Prayer and Directory. Perhaps you might write to some of them, especially to those who have children about the same age as yours.

Make deliberate plans to become really acquainted with families of a different color or ethnic group. Make opportunities to visit in each other's home.